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10 September 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Training

SUBJECT : Weekly Activities Report - Language School

1. Last week I had two requests from CCS [ ] to provide separate sets of French language tapes for retention. Producing these tapes would probably have cost several days of a technician's time as well as several hundred dollars for the material. I asked for a conference with the case officer, on the basis that we could provide better service if we knew more about the requirement. After thorough discussion of what CCS was trying to achieve, we settled one case by recommending tutorial instruction or instruction in a commercial school as far preferable to trying to learn solely from tapes. In the other case the officer had recently spent seven years in a French-speaking country and wanted to correct some of the poor language habits he had been using for years. Since he is in the area, we offered the loan of tapes from the LS library (sterile tapes), with a request that the officer establish the level of ability he wanted to work at. This is another clear-cut example of misinformed people assuming that tapes alone are a satisfactory means of learning a language. We feel that most extant tapes are chiefly supplementary materials to instruction, or that they are very useful in maintaining existing language skills; but that they can be used only in the rarest of cases, by a highly sophisticated language learner, to learn a language from scratch. I intend to question more actively requests of this type in the future, with the aim of offering requesters more fruitful solutions to their learning problems.

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2. On Wednesday we held our monthly All-Hands Meeting in Room 224. [ ] described the recent activities of the Linguistic Steering Committee. I explained the probable impact on the School of the three major aspects of the President's economic policy; i.e., the average grade rollback, the price-wage freeze, and the 5% reduction. Type B contract employees who wear the orange badge were asked to stay on floors 2, 3, and 4 of the building only. The remainder of the meeting was taken up with a discussion of questions raised by the Faculty Advisory Committee.

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~~GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification~~

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3. The first of three registration/briefing sessions for BAHLT students was held at Headquarters on 8 September. First-year Spanish students will be registered and briefed at LS on 13 September; the two TSD classes will have their briefing session later in the month on their premises. There will be 119 students in all, broken down into 10 classes.

25X1A9a 4. During the lull in teaching activity during the month of August, two members of the Italian faculty, [ ] and [ ] undertook an ambitious taping project. Where formerly we had only marginal tapes available for Italian instruction, as of this week we have two series, totaling 50 tapes, which are of professional quality.

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25X1A9a 5. [ ] has enlarged our offering of Headquarters Russian instruction by adding specialized courses in Readings in Geography and Readings in Science and Technology to those now being taught by [ ]. In addition, we are responding to NPIC's request for a Russian familiarization course by sending Mrs. [ ] to their building one hour a day, five times a week. NPIC will provide her transportation. One new feature of our Russian familiarization courses this fall will be a programmed introduction to the Cyrillic alphabet.

6. This week our staff was increased by several new arrivals:

25X1A9a a. [ ] is now in place as the Training Assistant to the German and Slavic Departments.

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25X1A9a c. [ ] will serve as Deputy Chief, SEA/NE Languages Department. Working with [ ] he will have primary responsibility for Persian and Thai.

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25X1A9a d. [ ] who worked at the Language School during the period 1955 to 1957 and later from 1965 to 1967, has returned to our French faculty.

7. Now that we have installed four Cooper machines in the Language School laboratory, we have begun to re-record some of our tapes to conform to the required format. [ ] has started work on the programmed Pimsleur French tapes that comprise the first weeks of our basic French course. We feel that the Cooper machine has particular advantages for teaching phonology and that it may be especially useful in French, where pronunciation is always a difficult problem.

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8. Language School Statistics:

1971: Students and Classes as of the week of 30 August - 3 September

Students

Full-time - 29  
Part-time - 63 (29 Hqs.)

TOTAL.....92

Classes

Full-time - 17  
Part-time - 28 (6 Hqs.)

TOTAL.....45

Laboratory hours for the week of 30 August - 3 September 1971:

Language School-59  
Headquarters -Closed

There were 32 proficiency tests given during the week of  
30 August - 3 September 1971.



Chief, Language School

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